



November 2003

## ***Proposed Rule Revision***

# **Drinking Water Operating Permits**

## **Chapter 246-294 WAC**

### **Systems affected**

All Group A public water systems.

### **Timelines and requirements**

#### **Water System Timelines and Requirements:**

Water systems will be subject to the revised WAC after it becomes effective in early 2004.

#### **Federal Timelines and Requirements:**

There are no federally imposed timelines because this is a state rule.

### **Purpose of rule change**

Chapter 246-294 must be updated to incorporate revisions to Chapter 246-290 WAC. The update also includes a proposal to revise permit categories to provide alternatives for systems that lack design approval but are operating at a level of acceptable compliance.

### **Public health benefit**

Implementation of these rule revisions will result in:

- Closer link between operating permit categories and public health regulations; and
- Better information on the condition of water supplies for consumers.

### **Key issues of public interest**

#### **Issues:**

- Current operating permit fees will be maintained.
- The rule is written to be more reader and user friendly.
- The rule more clearly links permit categories with compliance.
- Provides better information for "adequacy" decisions.

### **Rule development timeline**

May 2003  
May 2003  
June 2003  
January 12, 2004  
February 2004  
March 2004

Draft Rule Prepared  
Workshops for Stakeholders  
Stakeholder Comment Period  
Public Hearing  
Rule Adopted  
Rule Effective

## **How to get involved**

Public Hearing – January 12, 2004

*Send written comments to:*

Theresa Phillips  
Department of Health  
PO Box 47822  
Olympia, WA 98504-7822

*Comment online at:*

<http://www3.doh.wa.gov/policyreview/>

*Send email comments to:*

[Theresa.Phillips@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Theresa.Phillips@doh.wa.gov)

*Fax comments to:*

Attn: Theresa Phillips  
360-236-2253

## **For more information**

Theresa Phillips, Rules Coordinator, 360-236-3147

You can also visit our website at:

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our\\_Main\\_Pages/regula.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/regula.htm)